

Feast of Holy Trinity
St. Athanasius and St. Francis Parishes
May 21, 22, 2016

Do you ever feel frustrated trying to figure out another person? Like ...

- what are they thinking, or what were they thinking when they did something?
- what makes them be who they are, what makes them do what they do?
- or, just simply what makes them tick?

If you are ever frustrated with trying to understand another human person, now ask yourself, do I ever get frustrated trying to figure out God? God, who is three divine persons? Yes, three divine persons. This is what we are challenged to give thought to today on this Solemnity of the Holy Trinity.

We all, I am sure, believe God is three persons in one. It is a fundamental doctrine of all Christian faiths like all those along 6th Street in Jesup for sure. For us Catholics, even from just making a simple sign of the cross we know that God is a Trinity ... three persons in one. That being said, we may also not give this very much thought, and feel little or no impact on our daily lives from this teaching.

One of the factors that makes this teaching so beyond us, and even seem superfluous to our lives, is something I have asked us to think about a few times in the past, namely the narcissism and extreme individualism we live with. This narcissism/individualism is one of the cultural influences that impacts our lives today. Today's culture is permeated with the 'me first' idea. And like the saying, "it will come back to bite you", this extreme individualism has accomplished exactly that. The Holy Trinity is the extreme opposite of 'individualism'. The Holy Trinity is the ultimate of intimacy and community. And most all of us today have real difficulty thinking and acting in those terms. Because of the influence of individualism, we think and say, "I don't have time for community, I am too busy taking care of myself. I'll think of you after I take care of myself." But we will never appreciate, much less understand, the Trinity until we buy into community and relationship with God and others. Community and 'what goes on inside a person can be helpful, and is even necessary, to understanding the idea of Trinity.

Quite frankly, we depend on the Holy Trinity for everything. The Father is the transcendent Source of Love; the Son is the historical presence (embodiment) of that Love; the Spirit is the accompanying presence of that Love guiding us to an ever deeper awareness of God.

So what does go on inside God? While we may not think to ask ourselves that question very often, if at all, life in God is a very active one.

If we stay with the traditional roles we assign to the three persons,

God the Father is continually creating: this is especially easy to think of during the springtime. Just imagine everything that is being made anew. Fields with seeds planted, yard shrubs, animal herds with their newborn, children learning new skills at each stage of life, young people graduating, couples marrying. This is amazing creation. And if we think this is solely our own doing, we have much to rethink.

God the Son, Jesus, continues to redeem and save us. Conversions are not limited to a particular time of year, and conversions do not happen once and for all. Think of families being mended, old wounds being healed. Think of your own lives, as you are forgiven, experience something of the mercy and love of God. Yes, think of your need for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the times you have already been forgiven in that Sacrament. This is the Son of God at work. And the Son is at work not just in your life, but also in mine, and in the lives of the other billions of people who live on this planet earth. Redeeming us is full-time employment.

God the Holy Spirit, continues to enthuse us and fill us with energy. Who but the Holy Spirit gave you the idea to stop to see someone, only to find that they had a particular concern or need that day for which you were just the right fit? Who but the Holy Spirit gave you the proper words of love or the right words of correction yesterday or one other day last week? Who but the Holy Spirit breathed a new desire for God and holiness into your heart during our Parish Mission last January? Who do you think is guiding our leadership elections even this weekend?

And, if you want to risk thinking out of the box, consider this:

Our Trinity God makes present the message of Jesus and does not let the spirit of authoritarianism prevail in the community, or ritualism dominate in celebrations, or Christian thinking fall into boring repetition of formulas. The saving work of the Spirit is evidenced in the sacraments, particularly in the Eucharist. The Spirit comes as a grace that divinizes our life ...bringing the sacred humanity of Christ into our midst, under the form of bread and wine.

Where would society and the churches be without the emergence of innovators, creative people, who have new ideas, invent new rhythms, and discover new paths for education, agriculture, politics, and religion? It is through these twists and folds in the social fabric that the Holy Spirit (Trinity), creator and giver of life, is made manifest. (Leonardo Boff, Holy Trinity, Perfect Community page 95) **And if you want a good real-life example of an innovative and creative person, look no farther than Pope Francis. What an example for Pentecost and Trinity Sundays!**